the vessel within a period of 15 days from the receipt of the notice. Since SMIL, Goa did not comply with the said direction, the Department of Tourism issued an order on 8th January, 2002 under Section 7 of the Goa Tourist Places (Protection and Maintenance) Act, 2001 and Rules framed thereunder, according to which the vessel stands forfeited and now the same vests with the Government of Goa.

Cultivation of Bt Cotton using Navbharat 151 Seeds

205. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits offered by Bt Cotton, as compared to other hybrid varieties;

(b) whether standing cotton crop cultivated using the Navbharat 151 seeds in Gujarat was destroyed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the final decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Bt cotton is a bollworm resistant genetically modified crop which produces its own Bt toxin.

(b) to (d) Navbharat Seeds Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad has marketed seeds of a transgenic Bt cotton variety (Navbharat 151) in Gujarat without any biosafety assessment and the mandatory approval of GEAC, thereby violating the provisions of 1989 Rules and the Environment Protection Act 1986. The GEAC has directed the Gujarat State Biotechology Coordination Committee to:

- procure the cotton bolls of Navbharat 151 crop from the farmers at the appropriate support price;
- separate the lint and seed;
- destroy the seed and store the lint in safe custody till funther orders from GEACE
- destruction of crop residue by uprooting and burning and sanitation of fields.

The Government has also lodged a complaint against the Navbharat Company in the Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Ahmedabad on 12.11.2001 for penal action for violating Environment (Protection) Act.